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BOROUGH OF TIVERTON

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1960

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) Part time M.O.H.

G. Nicholson, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

2 The Larches, Tiverton. Tel.2652

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector

Charles Jeffries, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

7 St. Peter Street, Tiverton. Tel.3306

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

-oOo-

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the Borough of Tiverton.

For the year ended 31st. December, 1960.

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7 St. Peter Street,
Tiverton,
Devon.

May, 1961.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st. December, 1960.

Area. Although the Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres, the Town itself covers 300 acres only.

Population. Estimated 11,930.

Inhabited Houses. Number in 1960 was 4086.

Rateable Value is £180,882.

Estimated Penny Rate Product 1960 - 1961. £720.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate	196	104	92	Birth Rate: 16.6 per 1000
	Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Illegitimate live births were 3% of total births.					
Still Births	Legitimate	7	4	3	Total 7
	Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1000: 30
Corrected Birth Rate.		16.7 per 1000			
Deaths...		150	99	91	Death Rate: 13.3 per 1000.
Corrected Death Rate.					10.6 per 1000.

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth, 0; Puerperal Sepsis, 0; Congenital Malformation, 2.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 total births - 30

Deaths of Infants (under four weeks) Total 3 only.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age - 5

" " " " " 1 week " " - 2

Illegitimate infants under 1 year " " - 1

Illegitimate infants " 4 weeks" " - Nil

Deaths from Measles ... ... - Nil

" " Whooping Cough... ... ... - Nil

" " Diarrhoea.. ... ... - Nil

Deaths from Cancer, 42.

Leukaemia	-			Female	2
Uterus	-			"	1
Breast	-			"	1
Bronchus	-	Male	3	"	2
Stomach	-	"	3	"	5
Other Sites	-	"	13	"	12
			19		23

Total 6 more than in 1959.
It will be seen that deaths from cancer is again the highest yet recorded. There is apparently no increase in any particular organ affected. This increase in cancer deaths cannot be accounted for by deaths occurring in the Marie Curie institution at Tidcombe.

Looking back.
It might interest councillors to study the statistics from the earliest annual report for the Borough in my possession. It is dated 1913.

Then the death rate was 12.54 per 1000 living and
the birth rate 16.07 per 1000.
The infantile mortality rate 67.08 per 1000 births.
Infectious diseases - 3 cases of Diphtheria were notified and
24 fresh cases of Tuberculosis.

As you see the crude death rate for 1960 is 13.3 that is actually higher than in 1913, which is surprising in view of the increased improvement in sanitation and medical care. It is extremely difficult to account for this as such factors as Infantile mortality and deaths from Tuberculosis were much more in evidence in 1913 than at the present time. Also in 1913 the local factory only employed 1000 operatives which might indicate that there were fewer young people resident in the Borough in 1913.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Nursing in the Home. No change.

2. Domiciliary Midwifery is carried out by the two district nurses.

3. Laboratory Facilities. There are two in the Area - The County Laboratory and that connected with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. The County Laboratory has now removed to the University premises.

4. Health Education. Several lectures were given on prevention of Home accidents and one on Fluoridation by the Medical Officer of Health.

5. Chiropody Services. Service operates for the old people and is run by their association and which is fairly satisfactory.

6. Tiverton Borough and Rural District Hospital Services.
There are three Hospitals situated in the borough which, up to now have performed the bulk of the Hospital work of the town and district.
(i) The Tiverton and District Hospital.
(ii) The Belmont Hospital.
(iii) Post Hill Hospital.
The first of these is a general hospital dealing with surgical, medical and maternity cases.* It has a properly equipped operating theatre and x-ray department, but no laboratory facilities. The more difficult surgical and medical cases are dealt with in Exeter and recently, owing to the reduction in surgical staff, surgical emergencies have been sent to Exeter for this reason.
The hospital also has a busy accident and out-patient department which from time to time becomes overtaxed by the increasing number of road accidents.
The building was originally a dispensary and has been added to over the past 100 years with the consequence that it is rambling and antiquated.

* plus a children's ward.

cont'd.

Hospital Services (cont'd).

Also, as it is in the centre of the town, at a busy cross roads, it is extremely noisy.
The Maternity department is a more modern section and much the most satisfactory part of the building. It however, is not large enough to meet the needs of the area it serves.

(ii) The Belmont Hospital with 90 beds and also with part 3 accommodation, was formerly a workhouse, although greatly modernised, it still shows traces of its lowly origin.
It seems icredible that it is still without a lift - This means that helpless aged and arthritic patients are carried up three flights of stairs by hand - Once they are upstairs the more helpless tend to remain there.
The amount of running up and down stairs which the staff have to do is, of course, considerable.
This hospital also is inadequate for the needs of the aged sick of the district which it serves.

(iii) Post Hill is a former Isolation which serves a valuable purpose in catering for convalescent and also for acute and chronic medical cases.
It is however, some two miles out of the town and has no facilities for radiological investigations. This limits its usefulness to certain types of cases.

Summary.
I am strongly of the opinion that the time is overdue when Tiverton and district should be provided with an up to date hospital building with modern facilities to replace the present piecemeal, antiquated arrangements.
The present system is difficult to run, wasteful of staff and taga a heavy burden on the doctors.

Whipton Isolation Hospital. Infectious cases are sent to this hospital where accommodation is always adequate.

An ante-natal Clinic is held every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. at the Tiverton and District Hospital.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Tiverton and District Hospital twice monthly.

7. Liaison arrangements. Our local hospitals are largely staffed by general practitioners which constitutes an advantage as regards liaison.

8. Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers. None in the Area.

9. Ambulance Facilities. No change.

10. Social Worker in Mental Health and duly authorised officer:-
Mr. W. P. Thomas, The Clinic, St. Andrew Street. Resigned 9.12.60
Mr. P. D. Charles, " " " " " Started 1.1.61

11. Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesdays 9 - 12 a.m.
Dr. Hinde and Mrs. Sparks, the Health Visitor, in attendance.

Remedial Exercise Clinic. Wednesdays 11 - 12 a.m.
Mrs. Sparks, the Health Visitor, in attendance.

Ophthalmic Clinic. 2nd. Tuesdays in alternate months commencing January etc.
Dr. Chateuredi in attendance. By appointment.

Speech Therapy Clinics. Wednesdays 9 - 12 a.m. and 2 - 4 p.m.
Miss Chapman, Speech Therapist, in attendance.

Clinics (cont'd).

School Dental Service. Emergency treatment
Wednesdays 9 - 12.30 a.m. 1.30 - 4 p.m.
Other days by appointment.
Mr. West. (Full time).
Orthodontic treatment Mr. Peacock by appointment.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. This Centre is open weekly on Wednesdays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic. Thursday afternoons 2 - 4 p.m. Run by District Midwives and Health Visitors. Talks on elementary dietetics, care of baby etc.

The attendances for 1960 at Child Welfare Centre were as follows:-

Total infants attending for first time	120
Total children, 1 to 5 years, attending for first time.	15
Number on Register at end of year - Infants	100
" " " " " " " - 1 to 5 years. ...	198
Number of attendances during 1960 - Infants	1032
" " " " " " " - 1 to 5 years. ...	406

The Mothers and Children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and in their houses by the Health Visitor. Simple treatment has been given where considered sufficient, in other cases the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

Home Help Service. Cases are dealt with direct through Mrs. Taverner in conjunction with the W.V.S. Some Maternity cases in the area are dealt with direct by the District Nurses.

The Orthopaedic Clinic was held on 52 Tuesdays during the year - Appointments are made by the Secretary, Mrs. D. A. Birch, and this works very well.

Number on Register 1/1/60	227
" " " 31/12/60..	247
Sessions held by Surgeons 48: After care Sister 27.. ...	75
New Cases...	332
Discharges..	410
Admitted to Hospital	71
Average weekly attendances...	22
No. of attendances	1281
Admissions: Adults	271
School Age..	41
Under School Age and Infants..	20
	332

Some of the elder patients have been trained at St. Loyes's College for the Disabled, in connection with the Clinic, the aim being the complete rehabilitation of the patients.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Scabies. None reported during the year.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunization. Vaccination procedure administered by County Council and a Clinic is held for this purpose om each Wednesday. The majority of cases are dealt with by local doctors at their surgeries. The percentage of children immunised continues to be highly satisfactory.

Poliomyelitis. Registration for inoculation has proceeded a pace. Inoculation against this disease is being carried out at the local factory during working hours. The response continues to be very satisfactory and is maintained in the region of 100% for the under 40's.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality in 1960.

Public Health. (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925).
No action taken.

Tuberculosis.

Age Period.	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Meninges		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Meninges	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Age NK.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1		1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

Notifiable Diseases. Age Incidence.

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 2	2	-	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 9	5	1	-	1	-	-
10 to 14	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 40	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 to 65	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

Age Period.	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic/Non	Acute Encephalitis Infective/Post Infective
Under 1 year	3	1	-	-
1 to 2	43	3	-	-
3 to 4	41	4	-	-
5 to 9	85	-	-	-
10 to 14	1	-	-	-
15 to 24	-	-	-	-
25 to 40	-	1	-	-
40 to 65	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-
Totals	173	9	Nil	Nil

General Observations

Sewage.

As mentioned in my last report a new sewage scheme is under discussion and is very ugently required for the Borough. A visit was made by members of the sewage Committee, to inspect the composting works at Leatherhead.

It is hoped the Council will give full consideration to the possibility of instituting a scheme which would dispose of the household refuse in addition to the whole of the sewage sludge.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON

Medical Officer of Health

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REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

to the Borough of Tiverton

1st. January to 31st. December, 1960.

Public Health Department,
7 St. Peter Street,
Tiverton.

May, 1961.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Tiverton Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifteenth Annual Report dealing with the duties of my department during the year 1960.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Town's water supply is controlled by the North Devon Water Board.

1. The water supply for the Town has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. Bacteriological examinations have been made at regular monthly intervals of the treated water going into supply. Water from the Allers supply (source springs at Norwood Common, supplemented by pumping from River Exe) is both filtered and chlorinated. Water from the Warnicombe supply is only chlorinated. The public mains water at Bickleigh is from the Butterleigh supply and is filtered and chlorinated. The waters have no plumbo-solvent action.
3. Routine samples in respect of the Allers and Warnicombe supplies have been consistently satisfactory but the Butterleigh supply has been unsatisfactory on two occasions.
4. The population of the Borough is 11,930 occupying 4086 houses. The number of dwelling-houses and population supplied from public water mains direct to the houses is 3,728 houses 10,259 population. The number of dwelling-houses and population supplied from public water mains by means of stand-pipes is 213 houses 618 population.
5. The Council owns and runs a public swimming bath. The bath is an open bath and is in use only during the Summer. The water is obtained from the public main supply and a filtration and chlorination plant keeps the water in a highly satisfactory condition.

RESULTS OF SAMPLING

Source of Supply.	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Allers Public Main.	17	17	-
Warnicombe Public Main.	12	12	-
Butterleigh Public Main.	12	9	2
Farms and Other Premises.	22	10	12

In the case of farm premises and dwelling houses advice was given and follow up visits made to assist in obtaining satisfactory water supplies.

FOOD

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

536 Visits of Inspection were made to the Horsdon Abattoir for the purpose of meat inspection.

1. Ante and post-mortem inspections were made in the case of ALL animals slaughtered at the abattoir.

2. The Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection Grant) Regulations, 1958. Exchequer Grant towards cost of Meat Inspection.

   1st. April 1960 to 31st. March 1961. (Note:- Financial year does not coincide with Calendar Year).

   Inspection Units = 25953

   Tiverton Datum Figure = 17805

   Excess = 8148 Units

   Exchequer grant towards cost of meat inspection service should therefore amount to £33 - 19 - 0.

Details of animals slaughtered and amounts of meat and offal condemned as diseased or unfit:-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	2262	122	52	816	169
Number Inspected...	"	"	"	"	"
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.:-					
Whole carcases condemned.	5	1	3	8	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	893	89	1	32	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B.	39.7%	73.77%	7.7%	4.9%	1.18%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:-					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	1.18%

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
CYSTICERCOSIS:-					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration...	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned. ...	Nil	-	-	-	-

BOVINES		
No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight
2	General Oedema & Inflammation.	741
1	Acute Peritonitis.	507
3		1248
Parts of Carcases		
1	Arthritis.	12
1	Oedema.	214
1	Bruising.	3
2	Injuries and bone fractures.	113
5		342
Offal	Various.	12692
	BEEF - Tuberculosis	
No. of Carcases or Parts.	Nil	
Offal	Nil	
	BEEF - Cysticercosis	
Offal	Cysticercus Bovis.	64

Total Weight of BEEF Condemned. 14 cwts. 0 qrs. 22 lbs
" " " OFFAL " 5 tons. 13 cwts. 3 qrs. 16 lbs

PIGS		
No. of Carcases.	Disease	Weight.
-	Nil.	-
Parts of Carcases.		
1	Adhesions.	3
Offal.	Various.	25
	PIGS - Tuberculosis	
Parts of Carcases.		
2	Tuberculosis.	50
Total Weight of PORK Condemned.		1 qr. 25 lbs.
" " " OFFAL "		25 lbs.

SHEEP		
No. of Carcases.	Disease	Weight.
1	Septic Metritis.	57
2	Traumatic Injuries.	113
2	Septicaemia & Injuries.	68
2	General Oedema & Emaciation.	51
1	Acute Pleurisy & Pneumonia.	28
1	Inflammation & Cysts.	38
9		355
Parts of Carcases.		
1	Pleurisy.	18
9	Mutilated & Fevered.	55
2	Oedema & Injuries.	31
12		104
Offal.	Various.	138
Total Weight of MUTTON Condemned.		4 cwts. 0 qrs. 11 lbs.
" " " OFFAL "		1 cwts. 0 qrs. 26 lbs.

CALVES		
No. of Carcases.	Disease.	Weight.
2	Umbilical Pyaemia.	110
1	Septic Pneumonia.	64
3		174
Offal.	Various.	25

Total Weight of VEAL Condemned. 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 6 lbs.
" " " OFFAL " 25 lbs.

Condemned Meat is collected for fertilizer manufacture.
Condemned Food is used for pig food when practicable, otherwise destroyed on Council's refuse tip.

61 Visits made to shops for purpose of inspection and condemnation of unsound food

The following is a list of food condemned:-

	Description	Weight lbs.		Description	Weight lbs.
				Br/fd.	244½
	Meat	453¼		Dried Fruit	114½
Tinned	Meat	663		Fruit	28
"	Ham	342¼		Vegetables	74
"	Soup	8½		Puddings	12
"	Chicken	- ½		Cakes	9½
"	Vegetables	188¼		Biscuits	138
"	Fish	9½		Sweets	64
"	Fruit	281¼		Custard Powder	36
"	Cereals	2		Tea	7½
"	Milk	37¼		Sugar	336
Bottled	Fruit	5		Flour	28
"	Fruit Juice	41½		Fat	124
	Bacon	6¼		Animal Foods	89½
Frozen	Foods. (Various)	403			
	Cr/fd.	244½		Total.	3502½

Total Weight of Food Condemned. 1 ton. 11 cwts. 1 qr. 2 lbs. 8 ozs.
Also-12½ gallons Vinegar.
Large number gallons beer, cider etc.
" " bottles sherry, wines etc.

MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of food premises in the Council's area totals 176,made up as follows:-

Table of food premises.

Dairies...	8
Meat Purveyors (Butchers)...	12
Bakehouses	12
Fishmongers	4
Fish and Chip Friers..	5
Restaurants and Cafés.	7

cont'd.

Table of food premises (cont'd).

Grocers...	39
Greengrocers	10
Confectioners...	15
Public Houses...	26
Off Licensed Premises.	8
Factory Canteens	4
Hospitals etc...	6
School Canteens.	14
Boarding Houses etc...	6
Total	176

Registered Premises under Sec.16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream...	64
Preparation etc. and Sale of Sausages, or Preserved Foods...	26
Dairies...	8

22 Inspections were carried out at Registered Food Premises, including dairies; In all cases of premises selling Ice Cream, refrigerators were inspected for cleanliness and temperature readings were taken.
In every case the refrigerators were found to be efficient and temperatures satisfactory.
Although Ice Cream is sold from 64 premises it is manufactured on the premises in only one instance.
The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations are strictly enforced.
The standard of personal cleanliness in all registered premises was found to be generally high.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 - 56.

Visits to food premises and inspections of delivery vans totalled 35.
Number of prosecutions... one.

Sampling.
Food samples taken for testing during the year totalled 4.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Houses Demolished during the year.	Number of Houses.
(1) 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Sharland's Square...	10
(2) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Castle Terrace, and 5, 4 The Works.	9
(3) 2, 3, 4 Candy's Court, 2, 3, Trickey's Court and 16, 18 Silver Street...	7
Total houses demolished.	26
Individual Houses Demolished.	
30 Leat Street...	1
Individual Houses Closed.	
5 Maple Grove, Barrington Street.	1

Houses made fit during year. Sec. 9 & 16 Housing Act.

After informal action...	62
" formal action	2

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Out of a total of 28 "Standard Grant" applications, 23 were finally approved. During the year improvement work was completed in the case of 29 premises and Completion Certificates issued.
Also during the year 2 "Discretionary Grant" applications were finally approved, and improvement work was completed in the case of 2 premises and Completion Certificates issued.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

FACTORIES IN DETAIL.		INSPECTIONS.		
		Number of		
Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	83	7	4	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	31	31	Nil	Nil
Totals	125	38	4	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred - To H.M. Inspector	Referred - By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences.					
(a) insufficient.	1	1	Nil	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	3	3	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	3	3	-	-	-
Totals	7	7	Nil	4	Nil

OUTWORK

Number of Out-Workers required by Sect. 110.

Class 1 ... 2 Class 29 ... 24
" 3 ... 3

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

A total of 12 tanks were tested during the year.
Owners of petrol filling stations have been circulated and visited re the exhibition of warning notices and precautions to be observed in the filling of petrol tanks etc.

43 Licences were re-issued for the storage of 46,760 gallons of Petroleum Spirit, 49,245 gallons Petroleum Mixtures, and 230 gallons Cellulose & Thinners.

1 Licence re-issued for storage of 1½ cwts. Carbide of Calcium.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

24 applications were received for the registration of premises for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives, and Certificates of Registration were granted.

41 Inspections were carried out in connection with the above Acts.

COUNCIL'S REFUSE TIP - ASHLEY

During the year systematic disinfestation was again carried on at the Council's Refuse tip, in order to keep down the number of flies, wasps, and crickets.

7 treatments for the extermination of rats were carried out by Mr. Luxon, the Council's Rodent Operator.

Colonies of rats amounted to 3 reservoir and 4 major infestations.

RODENT CONTROL

Properties Inspected.

Local Authority ...	12
Dwelling Houses ...	86
Business Premises ...	90
Agricultural ...	79
Total	267

80 Poison treatments for extermination of rats were carried out.
The main system employed for rodent control is one of the prevention of the setting up of colonies by travelling rats.
"Fenn" traps are used at fourteen (14) large premises in the town and the number of rats caught is shown in the following table:-

Long Drag...	9
Recreation Ground.	25
J. Heathcoat Factory	19
Hamlins - Town Mills	8
Hamlins - St. Andrew Street...	81
Little Silver Depot	17
Co-operative Society, Gold St..	21
Tiverton Brewery..	53
East Devon Farmers Ltd.. ...	33
G. Small & Son	43
Near Bendings	22
Hay Park	117
Roller Mills	39
Bending & Son	3
Total	490

Had this large number of rats been allowed to settle and commence breeding, trouble

cont'd.

Rodent Control.(cont'd.)

would have been widespread and damage to foodstuffs extensive and costly in addition to the known dangers to health of the inhabitants of Tiverton. It has been noticeable that complaints of severe infestations by rats on farm premises has increased and might be attributed to the indiscriminate use of "Warfarin" baits, setting up poison prejudice and possibly immunity.

Four maintenance treatments to the Council's sewers were carried out during the year, the area of infestation being restricted to the older sewers in the old part of the town.

Mr. Luxon, the Council's Rodent Operator has given his usual conscientious and efficient service and the success of the Council's rodent service owes much to his keeness and loyalty.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR	
Water Samples taken:- Public Mains ...	41
Other Premises & Farms...	22
Slaughterhouse...	536
Dairies	3
Food & Drugs Act.	19
Food Sampling	4
Delivery Vans	4
Ice Cream and Preserved Foods	5
Food Shops re. Condemned Foods	61
Factories Act	45
Inspections re. Complaints...	152
Re-Visits..	149
Drainage...	327
Disinfection and Disinfestation... ...	25
Infectious Diseases	2
Caravans...	13
Slum Clearance Inspections & Revisits..	17
Housing Act Visits	8
Improvement Grants	240
Pet Animals Act..	3
Rodent Control...	20
Food Poisoning...	2
Petroleum and Explosives Licensing ...	29
Petroleum Tanks Tested.	12
Rent Act...	6
Miscellaneous	4
Total	1749

Conclusion.

I am grateful to Miss Newton, the Public Health Department's Clerk, for her willing assistance and meticulous keeping of the office records.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES JEFFRIES

Public Health Inspector